

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
Serial No.: 10/667,363
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC Ref: Q77674

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4-6 are all the claims pending in the application. By way of this Amendment, Applicant has amended claims 1, 5 and 6. For the following reasons, it is submitted that these claims patentably distinguish over the cited art applied by the Examiner in paragraph 1 of the Office Action.

More specifically, claims 1 and 5 have been amended to recite that the two blades (L) carrying the two diametrically opposite cutting bits (P2) on each of the bar and the counter-bar (*See*, Figure 5 of the application) have their ends which are fixed (by screws V) to the body of the associated bar at axially spaced positions and are oriented towards each other with their bit-carrying ends, as clearly shown in Figure 5. Due to this feature, the cross-section of the bar where each blade L is fixed is not weakened as in the case of the device shown in Milewski (U.S. Patent No. 3,530,745). In this prior reference, the diametrically opposite cartridges 12 are both fixed to the holder 10 at the same location thereof, plus reducing the extent of the bar cross-section considerably.

Thus, due to the features each of the bar and counter-bar has two diametrically opposite cutting bits which can be simultaneously registered in their radial position through the axially sliding shaft with the conical portion C, while ensuring that both the bar and the counter-bar present, at any axial location thereof, a cross-section sufficient to resist the torque to which the bar is subjected in operation.

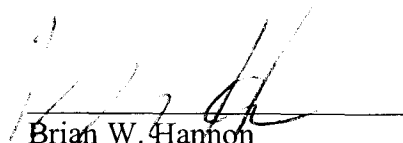
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Since there is no disclosure, nor even a remote suggestion, in the references of record of providing two diametrically opposite bit-supporting blades oriented towards each other, it is submitted that the above proposed new claim would be allowable over the cited prior art.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 4-6 patentably distinguish over the cited art. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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